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a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said male and female coupling mechanisms extending inwardly from the inward facing surface, with the female coupling mechanism having an inner surface and a rounded outer surface;

wherein said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism of said holder is adapted to interlock with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder to form a flexible hinge, the male coupling mechanism nesting with the female coupling mechanism, and the rounded outer surface of the female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to nest within a groove between adjacent teeth of a sprocket; and

said male coupling mechanism extending from said base with a slot located through said base and adjacent to said male coupling mechanism;

said female coupling mechanism extending from said base having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot of an adjacent holder; and

wherein the distal end of the female coupling mechanism can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male holder-engaging mechanism of an adjacent holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the holder and the another holder to spread apart in relation to each other.

Remarks

Subsequent to the RESPONSE B to the above-indicated Restriction Requirement, pending case 09/721,001 was allowed over the prior art. That companion case dealt with the entire structure which is used to store and display multiple objects, such as for example, CD jewel cases.

The present case is directed to an individual holder which can retain a CD jewel case or other object and describes how the individual holder is mated to an adjacent holder. The claims of the present case have been amended to include limitations similar to those allowed in the pending related case 09/721,001. Accordingly, even though the scope of the present claims is different from the scope of the

claims of the allowed case, Applicant respectfully submits that claim as amended in the present case are allowable over the prior art.

Continued examination and allowance of the present case is requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

15. (Thrice amended) A holder usable to create a continuous loop formed by matingly interlocking adjacent such holders, the holder comprising:

first and second walls retained a spaced-apart distance from each other and [sufficiently] adapted to admit and frictionally retain at least a portion of at least one object to be retained by said holder;

a first holder-engaging mechanism with a slot located adjacent thereto; and

a second holder-engaging mechanism having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot; and

wherein said first holder-engaging mechanism on said holder is disposed to matingly interlock with a second holder-engaging mechanism on a second said holder, and said second holder-engaging mechanism on said holder is disposed to matingly interlock with [the] a first holder-engaging mechanism on a third said holder to form said loop, [such that said second holder-engaging mechanism of each said holder is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket.]; and

wherein the distal end of the second holder-engaging mechanism of the second said holder can pass through said slot located adjacent to the first holder-engaging mechanism of said holder to which the second holder-engaging mechanism is inserted to allow the second said holder to spread apart from said holder.

21. (Twice Amended) The holder of claim 20, further including:

a rib member joined to a portion of each of said first and second walls to bifurcate an object retaining space between said first and second walls into space and adapted to retain at least a portion of a first object and into space and adapted to retain at least a portion of a second object; and

a projecting member formed on at least one of said first and second walls on a [surfacing] surface facing a retained first said object and facing a retained second said object.

37. (Twice Amended) A [one-piece] holder adapted to matingly interlock with adjacent such holders to create a continuous loop of said holders, the holder comprising:

a base having an inward and outward surface, said inward surface having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said male and female coupling mechanisms extending inwardly from said inward surface;

first and second members spaced-apart from each other a distance [sufficient] and adapted to admit and frictionally retain at least a portion of [a compact disc (CD) jewel case to be retained by said holder] an object, and said first and second member extending outwardly from said outward surface; and

said male and female coupling mechanism matingly interlock adjacent holders to each other to form [said] a continuous loop; and

said male coupling mechanism having a slot located adjacent thereto;

said female coupling mechanism having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot;

wherein the distal end of female coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male coupling mechanism of said holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the adjacent holder to spread apart from said holder.

41. (Once Amended) The holder of claim 37, wherein said [means for matingly interlocking] male coupling mechanism includes a first curved projecting member sized and disposed to matingly interlock with a second region on an adjacent said holder, and [includes] the female coupling mechanism includes a second

region sized and disposed to matingly interlock with a first curved projecting member on an adjacent said holder.

42. (Once Amended) The holder of claim 37, further including at least one L-shaped interlock member [integrally] formed on [a] the inward surface of said holder [opposite from a surface facing a CD jewel case an object retained in said holder].

43. (Once Amended) The holder of claim 37, wherein said holder is sized to retain two [CD jewel cases] objects in a side-by-side configuration.

50. (Once Amended) A holder to retain a compact disc jewel-case, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base section adapted to be located adjacent a first edge of the jewel-case, having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having an inner surface and an outer surface;

a first finger extending from the base section and adapted to receive a second edge of the jewel-case;

a second finger extending from the base section and adapted to receive a third edge of the jewel-case; and

wherein said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism of said holder interlocks with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said base section of the holders form the continuous loop, and further where said outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be

seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket, promoting the jewel-case to fan-out at a turnaround region[.];

said male coupling mechanism extending from said base with a slot located through said base and adjacent to said male coupling mechanism;

said female coupling mechanism extending from said base having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot of an adjacent holder; and

wherein the distal end of the female coupling mechanism can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male holder-engaging mechanism of an adjacent holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the holder and the another holder to spread apart in relation to each other.

52. (Once Amended) A holder to retain a compact disc, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base, having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having an inner surface and an outer surface, said base adapted to retain the compact disc; [and]

said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism interlocks with said male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said base section of the holders form the continuous loop, and said outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket, promoting the housing to fan-out at a turnaround region[.];

said male coupling mechanism extending from said base, with a slot located through said base and adjacent to said male coupling mechanism;

said female coupling mechanism extending from said base having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot of an adjacent holder; and

wherein the distal end of the female coupling mechanism can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male holder-engaging mechanism of an adjacent holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the holder and the another holder to spread apart in relation to each other.

55. (Once Amended) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base, having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having an inner and outer surface;

a support structure extending from the base, having a retaining mechanism to frictionally retain the object; and

said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism interlocks with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said base of the holders form a continuous loop, the male coupling mechanism nesting within the female coupling mechanism, and said outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket[.];

said male coupling mechanism extending from said base with a slot located through said base and adjacent to said male coupling mechanism;

said female coupling mechanism extending from said base having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot of an adjacent holder; and

wherein the distal end of the female coupling mechanism can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male holder-engaging mechanism of an adjacent holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the holder and the another holder to spread apart in relation to each other.

56. (Once Amended) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base having an interior surface to frictionally retain the object and an exterior surface having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having a rounded inner surface and a rounded outer surface;

a support structure extending from said base, having a retaining mechanism to frictionally retain the object; and

said rounded inner surface of said female coupling mechanism interlocks with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder so that said bases of the holders form a continuous loop, and further where said rounded outer surface of said female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to be seated in a groove between adjacent teeth on a sprocket[.];

said male coupling mechanism extending from said base with a slot located through said base and adjacent to said male coupling mechanism;

said female coupling mechanism extending from said base having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot of an adjacent holder; and

wherein the distal end of the female coupling mechanism can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male holder-engaging mechanism of an adjacent holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the holder and the another holder to spread apart in relation to each other.

57. (Once Amended) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base having an outward surface adapted to be adjacent an edge of the object and an inward surface having a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said female coupling mechanism having a rounded inner surface and a rounded outer surface;

a first and second finger extending from the base, each finger having a retaining mechanism adapted for retaining an edge of the object; [and]

wherein the rounded inner surface of the female coupling mechanism of said holder is adapted to interlock with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder to form a flexible hinge, the male coupling mechanism nesting within the female coupling mechanism, and said rounded outer surface of the female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to nest within a groove between adjacent teeth of a sprocket[.];

said male coupling mechanism extending from said base with a slot located through said base and adjacent to said male coupling mechanism;

said female coupling mechanism extending from said base having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot of an adjacent holder; and

wherein the distal end of the female coupling mechanism can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male holder-engaging mechanism of an adjacent holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the holder and the another holder to spread apart in relation to each other.

58. (Once Amended) A holder to retain an object, the holder adapted to interlock with similar holders to form a continuous loop, each holder comprising:

a base with an inwardly facing surface and an outwardly facing surface;

a structure adapted to retain the object extending outwardly from the outward facing surface;

a male coupling mechanism and a female coupling mechanism, said male and female coupling mechanisms extending inwardly from the inward facing surface, with the female coupling mechanism having an inner surface and a rounded outer surface; [and]

wherein said inner surface of said female coupling mechanism of said holder is adapted to interlock with a male coupling mechanism of an adjacent holder to form a flexible hinge, the male coupling mechanism nesting with the female coupling mechanism, and the rounded outer surface of the female coupling mechanism is shaped and adapted to nest within a groove between adjacent teeth of a sprocket[.]; and

said male coupling mechanism extending from said base with a slot located through said base and adjacent to said male coupling mechanism;

said female coupling mechanism extending from said base having a distal end, which distal end is shaped in order to be received in said slot of an adjacent holder; and

wherein the distal end of the female coupling mechanism can pass through said slot located adjacent to said male holder-engaging mechanism of an adjacent holder to which the female coupling mechanism is inserted to allow the holder and the another holder to spread apart in relation to each other.